



**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
THE ASSEMBLY**

DRAFT LAW

No ____, dated ____ 2026

ON

**THE APPROVAL OF MEASURES FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE DIGITAL
MARKETS ACT IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA AND THE RULES ON
PROMOTING FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN ONLINE INTERMEDIATION
SERVICES FOR BUSINESS USERS¹**

Pursuant to Articles 78 and 83(1) of the Constitution, on the proposal of the Council of Ministers,
the Assembly of the Republic of Albania,

DECIDED:

**CHAPTER I
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

Article 1

Purpose of the law

The purpose of this Law is:

- a) to contribute to the proper functioning of the internal market in the Republic of Albania through rules which ensure for business users of online intermediation services and for corporate website users in relation to search engines a fair and transparent environment, as well as possibilities for effective remedies.
- b) to ensure the operational readiness of Albanian institutions for cooperation, coordination and procedural support in the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925, the Digital Markets Act, upon the accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Union;

¹This Law is fully aligned with Regulation (EU) 2019/1150 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on promoting fairness and transparency for business users of online intermediation services, CELEX number: 32019R1150, published in the Official Journal of the European Union, L series 186, 11.7.2019, pages 57–79, and partially approximates Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act), CELEX number: 32022R1925, published in the Official Journal of the European Union, L series 265, 12.10.2022, pages 1–66.

c) to prepare the responsible Authority for cooperation and coordination with the European Commission and for the exercise, from the date of accession, of the competences provided for in Article 38 of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925, the Digital Markets Act;

Article 2

Subject matter of the law

The subject matter of this Law is:

- a) the laying down of rules promoting fairness, transparency and effective means of dispute resolution for business users of online intermediation services and for corporate website users in relation to online search engines, in accordance with the practice of the European Union and with the regional commitment provided for in Article 20 of Decision No 2/2024 of the CEFTA Joint Committee, ratified by Law No 50/2025;
- b) the laying down of the national measures of institutional readiness and the rules on cooperation, coordination and procedural support for the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925, from the date of accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Union.

Article 3

Scope

1. This Law applies to online intermediation services and online search engines, as determined in Chapters II, III, IV and V of this Law, provided, or offered to be provided, to:

- a) business users and corporate website users that have their place of establishment or residence in the Republic of Albania and that, through those services, offer goods or services to consumers located in the Republic of Albania or in another CEFTA Party; or
- b) business users and corporate website users that have their place of establishment or residence in another CEFTA Party and that, through those services, offer goods or services to consumers located in the Republic of Albania.

2. This Law, in so far as provided in Chapters II, III, IV and V thereof, does not apply to:

- a) online payment services;
- b) online advertising tools and online advertising exchanges which are not provided with the aim of facilitating the initiation of direct transactions and which do not involve a contractual relationship with consumers.

3. Chapters VI and VII of this Law are applied by the responsible authority and the other Albanian public bodies in relation to the measures of institutional readiness, cooperation, coordination and procedural support connected with the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925, the Digital Markets Act, upon the accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Union.

4. This Law is without prejudice to the application of the legislation in force on the protection of competition, consumer protection, electronic commerce, personal data protection, trade secrets protection and financial services.

5. This Law is without prejudice to the application of the legislation in force prohibiting or sanctioning unilateral or unfair commercial practices in respect of matters not governed by Chapters II to V of this Law, or to the legislation in force on the validity, formation, effects or termination of contracts.

Article 4 Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Law, the following terms have the following meanings:

- a) "business user" means any private individual acting in a commercial or professional capacity, or any legal person, which, through online intermediation services, offers goods or services to consumers for purposes relating to its trade, business, craft or profession;
- b) "online intermediation service" means a service which meets all of the following requirements:
 - i) it constitutes an information society service within the meaning of Law No 10128 of 11.5.2009 "On electronic commerce", as amended;
 - ii) it allows business users to offer goods or services to consumers, with a view to facilitating the initiation of direct transactions between them, irrespective of where those transactions are ultimately concluded;
 - iii) it is provided to business users on the basis of a contractual relationship between the provider of the service and the business user;
- c) "provider of online intermediation services" means any natural or legal person which provides, or offers to provide, online intermediation services to business users;
- ç) "consumer" has the meaning given in the legislation in force on consumer protection;
- d) "online search engine" means a digital service that allows users to input queries in order to perform searches of, in principle, all websites, or all websites in a particular language, on the basis of a query on any subject in the form of a keyword, voice request, phrase or other input, and returns results in any format in which the requested information can be found;
- dh) "provider of online search engine" means any natural or legal person which provides, or offers to provide, online search engines to consumers;
- e) "corporate website user" means any natural or legal person which uses an online interface, including a website or a part thereof and applications, including mobile applications, to offer goods or services to consumers for purposes relating to its trade, business, craft or profession;
- ë) "ranking" means the relative prominence given to the goods or services offered through online intermediation services, or the relevance given to search results by online search engines, as presented, organised or communicated by the provider, irrespective of the technological means used for such presentation, organisation or communication;
- f) "control" means ownership of, or the ability to exercise decisive influence over, an undertaking, within the meaning of the legislation in force on the protection of competition;
- g) "terms and conditions" means all terms, clauses or specifications, irrespective of their name or form, which govern the contractual relationship between the provider of online intermediation services and the business user and which are unilaterally determined by the provider. The unilateral character is evaluated on a case-by-case basis, on the basis of an overall assessment, for which the relative size of the parties, the fact that a negotiation took place or that certain provisions were negotiated and determined together are not, in themselves, decisive;

gj) "ancillary goods and services" means goods and services offered to the consumer prior to the completion of a transaction initiated on the online intermediation service, complementary to the primary good or service offered by the business user through that service;

h) "mediation" has the meaning given in the law in force on mediation in dispute resolution;

i) "durable medium" means any instrument which enables the business user to store information addressed personally to it in a way accessible for future reference and for a period of time adequate for the purposes of the information, and which allows the unchanged reproduction of the information stored;

j) "date of accession" means the date of entry into force of the Treaty of Accession of the Republic of Albania to the European Union;

k) "Member State" means any Member State of the European Union;

l) "CEFTA Party" means a party to the Agreement on Amendment of and Accession to the Central European Free Trade Agreement to which Decision No 2/2024 of the CEFTA Joint Committee applies, in accordance with Article 54 of that Decision;

ll) "Authority" means the Competition Authority, established under Law No 9121 of 28.7.2003 "On the protection of competition", as amended;

m) "ministry" means the ministry responsible for digital policies and electronic communications;

n) "Digital Markets Act" means Regulation (EU) 2022/1925 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 September 2022 on contestable and fair markets in the digital sector and amending Directives (EU) 2019/1937 and (EU) 2020/1828 (Digital Markets Act);

2. The terms "gatekeeper", "core platform service", "end user", and any other term used in Chapters VI and VII of this Law which is not expressly defined in paragraph 1 of this Article, have the meaning given in Article 2 of the Digital Markets Act.

Article 5 **Responsible authority**

1. From the date of accession, the Competition Authority is the responsible authority exercising the functions of the national authority enforcing the competition rules referred to in Article 1(6) of the Digital Markets Act and the competences provided for in Article 38 of that Act.

2. The Competition Authority exercises the competences provided for in this Law independently and in accordance with the competences laid down in Law No 9121 of 28.7.2003 "On the protection of competition", as amended.

3. The authority responsible for consumer protection and the other public bodies, within their competences and within the limits of the relevant sectoral legislation, cooperate in the performance of the tasks provided in chapters II to V of this Law.

CHAPTER II

TERMS AND CONDITIONS AND THE CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BUSINESS USERS

Article 6

Terms and conditions

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall ensure that its terms and conditions:
 - a) are drafted in plain and intelligible language;
 - b) are easily available to business users at all stages of their commercial relationship with the provider, including in the pre-contractual stage;
 - c) set out the grounds for decisions to suspend or terminate or impose any other kind of restriction upon, in whole or in part, the provision of online intermediation services to business users;
 - c) include information on any additional distribution channels and any potential affiliate programmes through which the provider may market the goods and services offered by business users;
 - d) include general information regarding the effects of the terms and conditions on the ownership and control of intellectual property rights of business users.
2. Terms and conditions are drafted in plain and intelligible language which enables the average business user to understand the main rights, obligations and consequences of the contractual relationship. Wording that is vague, excessively general, misleading or lacking the necessary detail on important commercial issues does not satisfy this requirement.
3. The provider of online intermediation services shall ensure that the identity of the business user offering goods or services through the online intermediation service is clearly visible.
4. Terms and conditions, or specific provisions thereof, which do not comply with the requirements of paragraph 1 of this Article are null and void and are deemed never to have existed. The nullity covers only the provisions which do not comply with those requirements; the remainder of the terms and conditions remains valid and enforceable in so far as it can be severed from them.

Article 7

Changes to terms and conditions

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall notify, on a durable medium, the business users concerned of any proposed changes to its terms and conditions.
2. The proposed changes shall not be implemented before the expiry of a notice period which is reasonable and proportionate to the nature and extent of the envisaged changes and to their consequences for the business user. That period may not be shorter than 15 days from the date on which the provider notifies the business users of the proposed changes. Where the proposed changes require the business user to make significant technical or commercial adaptations, longer notice periods shall be granted.
3. The business user has the right to terminate the contract with the provider before the expiry of the notice period. Termination takes effect within 15 days from the receipt of the notice under paragraph 1 of this Article, unless a shorter period applies to the contract.

4. The business user may waive the notice period provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article at any time after receipt of the notice, by means of a written statement or a clear affirmative action. Submitting new goods or services to the online intermediation service during the notice period is considered a clear affirmative action to waive the notice period, except where the reasonable and proportionate notice period is longer than 15 days because the changes to the terms and conditions require the business user to make significant technical adjustments to its goods or services.
5. The notice period provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article does not apply where the provider:
 - a) is subject to a legal or regulatory obligation which requires it to change its terms and conditions in a manner which does not allow it to respect the notice period;
 - b) has exceptionally to change its terms and conditions to address an unforeseen and imminent danger related to defending the online intermediation service, consumers or business users from fraud, malware, spam, data breaches or other cybersecurity risks.
6. Changes to terms and conditions implemented by the provider contrary to this Article are null and void.

Article 8

Restriction, suspension and termination of the service

1. Where the provider of online intermediation services decides to restrict or suspend the provision of its services to a given business user in relation to individual goods or services offered by that business user, it shall provide the business user, prior to or at the time of the restriction or suspension taking effect, with a statement of reasons for the decision on a durable medium.
2. Where the provider of online intermediation services decides to terminate the provision of the whole of its services to a given business user, it shall provide the business user, at least 30 days prior to the termination taking effect, with a statement of reasons for the decision on a durable medium.
3. In the cases of restriction, suspension or termination, the provider shall give the business user the opportunity to clarify the facts and circumstances in the framework of the internal complaint-handling system provided for in Article 15 of this Law. Where the measure is revoked, the provider shall reinstate the business user without undue delay, including by providing access to the personal data or other data, or both, generated through the use of the services prior to the measure having taken effect.
4. The notice period provided for in paragraph 2 of this Article does not apply where the provider of online intermediation services:
 - a) is subject to a legal or regulatory obligation which requires it to terminate the provision of the whole of its online intermediation services to a given business user in a manner which does not allow it to respect that period;
 - b) exercises a right of termination for an imperative reason pursuant to the legislation in force;
 - c) can demonstrate that the business user concerned has repeatedly infringed the applicable terms and conditions, resulting in the termination of the provision of the whole of the online intermediation services in question.

In the cases provided for in this paragraph, the provider shall provide the business user, without undue delay, with the statement of reasons for the decision on a durable medium.

5. The statement of reasons provided for in paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 of this Article shall contain a reference to the specific facts or circumstances, including the contents of third-party notifications, that led to the provider's decision, as well as a reference to the applicable grounds for that decision set out in the terms and conditions pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 1, letter "c", of this Law. The provider is not required to provide a statement of reasons where it is subject to a legal or regulatory obligation not to disclose the specific facts or circumstances or the reference to the applicable grounds, or where it can demonstrate that the business user has repeatedly infringed the applicable terms and conditions.

Article 9

Specific contractual terms

In order to ensure that contractual relations between providers of online intermediation services and business users are conducted in good faith and based on fair dealing, the provider of online intermediation services:

- a) shall not impose retroactive changes to terms and conditions, except where they are required to comply with a legal or regulatory obligation or where the retroactive changes are beneficial for business users;
- b) shall ensure that its terms and conditions include information on the conditions under which business users may terminate the contractual relationship with the provider;
- c) shall include in its terms and conditions a description of the technical and contractual access, or absence thereof, to the information provided or generated by the business user, which the provider maintains after the expiry of the contract between it and the business user.

CHAPTER III TRANSPARENCY

Article 10

Ranking

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall set out in its terms and conditions the main parameters determining ranking and the reasons for the relative importance of those main parameters as opposed to other parameters.
2. The provider of an online search engine shall set out the main parameters which, individually or collectively, are most significant in determining ranking, and their relative importance, by making publicly available, on its online search engine, an easily accessible description drafted in plain and intelligible language. The provider shall keep that description up to date.
3. Where the main parameters include the possibility to influence ranking against any direct or indirect remuneration paid by business users or corporate website users to the respective provider, the provider shall also set out a description of that possibility and of the effects of such remuneration on ranking, in accordance with the requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

4. Where the provider of an online search engine has altered the ranking in a specific case or delisted a particular website from the results following a third-party notification, it shall offer the corporate website user the possibility to inspect the contents of the notification.

5. The descriptions provided for in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of this Article shall be sufficient to enable business users or corporate website users to obtain an adequate understanding of whether, and if so how and to what extent, the ranking mechanism takes account of:

- a) the characteristics of the goods and services offered to consumers through the online intermediation services or the online search engine;
- b) the relevance of those characteristics for consumers;
- c) as regards online search engines, the design characteristics of the website used by corporate website users.

6. When complying with the requirements of this Article, the provider is not required to disclose algorithms or any information that, with reasonable certainty, would enable the deception of consumers or consumer harm through the manipulation of search results. This Article is without prejudice to the application of the legislation in force on the protection of trade secrets.

Article 11

Ancillary goods and services

Where consumers are offered ancillary goods and services, including financial services, through the online intermediation service, either by the provider of the service itself or by third parties, the provider shall set out in its terms and conditions the type of ancillary goods and services offered, as well as, where applicable, the conditions under which the business user is allowed to offer its own ancillary goods or services through the online intermediation service.

Article 12

Differentiated treatment

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall include in its terms and conditions a description of any differentiated treatment which it gives, or might give, between goods or services offered to consumers through those services by, on the one hand, the provider itself or business users which it controls and, on the other hand, other business users. The description shall refer to the main economic, commercial or legal considerations for such differentiated treatment.

2. The provider of an online search engine shall set out a description of any differentiated treatment which it gives, or might give, between goods or services offered to consumers through the online search engine by, on the one hand, the provider itself or corporate website users which it controls and, on the other hand, other corporate website users.

3. The descriptions provided for in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article shall cover in particular, where applicable, any differentiated treatment through specific measures taken by the provider or through its behaviour, relating to:

- a) access that the provider, or the business users or corporate website users which it controls, may have to any personal data or other data, or both, which business users, corporate website users or consumers provide for the use of the online intermediation service or the online search engine, or which are generated through the provision of those services;

- b) ranking or other settings applied by the provider that influence consumer access to goods or services offered by other business users or by other corporate website users;
- c) any direct or indirect remuneration charged for the use of the online intermediation services or the online search engine;
- ç) access to, conditions for, or any direct or indirect remuneration charged for the use of services, functionalities or technical interfaces that are relevant to the business user or the corporate website user and that are directly connected or ancillary to the use of the services concerned.

Article 13

Access to data

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall include in its terms and conditions a description of the technical and contractual access, or absence thereof, of business users to any personal data or other data, or both, which business users or consumers provide for the use of the online intermediation services or which are generated through the provision of those services.
2. Through the description provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, the provider shall adequately inform business users in particular of the following:
 - a) whether the provider has access to personal data or other data, or both, which business users or consumers provide for the use of the services or which are generated through the provision of those services, and if so, to which categories of such data and under what conditions;
 - b) whether the business user has access to personal data or other data, or both, provided by it in connection with its use of the services or generated through the provision of the services to that business user and to the consumers of its goods or services, and if so, to which categories of such data and under what conditions;
 - c) in addition to letter "b" of this paragraph, whether the business user has access to personal data or other data, or both, including in aggregated form, provided or generated through the provision of the services to all business users and their consumers, and if so, to which categories of such data and under what conditions;
 - ç) whether the data referred to in letter "a" of this paragraph are provided to third parties, together with the purpose of such provision and the possibilities for the business user to opt out from it, where such provision is not necessary for the proper functioning of the online intermediation services.
3. This Article is without prejudice to the application of the legislation in force on the protection of personal data.

Article 14

Restrictions to offer different conditions through other means

1. Where the provider of online intermediation services, in the provision of its services, restricts the ability of business users to offer the same goods and services to consumers under different conditions through means other than those services, it shall include the grounds for that restriction in its terms and conditions and make those grounds easily available to the public. The grounds shall include the main economic, commercial or legal considerations for the restriction.

2. The obligation provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article is without prejudice to any prohibition or limitation in respect of the imposition of such restrictions that results from the application of the legislation in force, including the legislation on the protection of competition and on unfair commercial practices.

CHAPTER IV DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Article 15

Internal complaint-handling system

1. The provider of online intermediation services shall establish an internal system for handling the complaints of business users. The system shall be easily accessible and free of charge for business users.
2. The system referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article shall ensure the handling of complaints within a reasonable time frame. It shall be based on the principles of transparency and equal treatment in similar situations, and on treating complaints in a manner which is proportionate to their importance and complexity.
3. The internal complaint-handling system shall allow the business user to lodge a complaint directly with the provider regarding:
 - a) alleged non-compliance by the provider with the obligations laid down in this Law which affects the complainant;
 - b) technological issues which relate directly to the provision of the online intermediation services and which affect the complainant;
 - c) measures taken by, or behaviour of, the provider which relate directly to the provision of the online intermediation services and which affect the complainant.
4. As part of the internal complaint-handling system, the provider:
 - a) shall duly consider complaints lodged and the follow-up which may be needed to adequately address the issue raised;
 - b) shall process complaints swiftly and effectively, taking into account their importance and complexity;
 - c) shall communicate to the complainant, in an individualised manner and in plain and intelligible language, the outcome of the internal complaint-handling process.
5. The provider shall include in its terms and conditions all information necessary for access to and the functioning of the internal complaint-handling system.
6. The provider shall establish and make easily available to the public information on the functioning and effectiveness of its internal complaint-handling system. It shall verify that information at least annually and update it where significant changes are needed. The information shall include the total number of complaints lodged, the main types of complaints, the average time period needed to process them and aggregated information regarding the outcome of the complaints.

7. This Article does not apply where the provider of the service is a small enterprise or a micro-enterprise within the meaning of Law No 43/2022 "On the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises".

Article 16 **Mediation**

1. For the out-of-court settlement of disputes, the provider of online intermediation services has the right to identify in its terms and conditions two or more mediators with which it is willing to engage to reach an agreement with business users on the out-of-court settlement of any dispute between the provider and the business user arising in relation to the provision of the online intermediation services, including complaints that could not be resolved by means of the internal complaint-handling system provided for in Article 15 of this Law.
2. In identifying mediators under paragraph 1 of this Article, the provider of the service shall have regard to compliance with the requirements of the legislation in force on mediation.
3. Notwithstanding the voluntary nature of mediation, providers of online intermediation services and business users shall engage in good faith throughout any mediation attempts conducted pursuant to this Article and in accordance with legislation in force for mediation.
4. Providers of online intermediation services shall pay a reasonable tariff for mediation service as approved in in accordance with legislation in force for mediation.
5. Any attempt to reach an agreement through mediation on the settlement of a dispute in accordance with this Article shall not affect the rights of the providers of online intermediation services and of the business users concerned to initiate judicial proceedings at any time before, during or after the mediation process.
6. If requested by a business user, before entering into or during mediation, the provider of online intermediation services shall make available, to the business user, information on the functioning and effectiveness of mediation related to its activities.
7. The requirements set out in paragraph 1, of this article shall not apply to providers of online intermediation services that are small enterprises or micro enterprises within the meaning of the Law no. 43/2022 “On the development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises”.

Article 17 **Specialized mediators**

The Authority, in cooperation with the ministry responsible for justice, shall encourage providers of online intermediation services, as well as organizations and associations representing them, to set up, individually or jointly, one or more organizations providing specialized mediation services for disputes with business users, taking account of the cross-border nature of the services.

CHAPTER V ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL PROTECTION

Article 18 **Right to judicial redress**

1. Organizations and associations that have a legitimate interest in representing business users or corporate website users, as well as public bodies expressly entrusted by law, have the right to bring

an action before the competent court of general jurisdiction to prohibit or stop non-compliance by providers of online intermediation services or by providers of online search engines with the obligations laid down in Chapters II, III and IV of this Law.

2. Organizations and associations have the right provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article only where, at the time the action is brought, the legal requirements laid down in the legislation in force on representative actions are met, in accordance with the practice of the European Union.

3. The right provided for in paragraph 1 is without prejudice to the right of business users and corporate website users to bring an action before the competent court, on the basis of their individual rights, to prohibit or stop the non-compliance and, where the conditions of civil liability are met, to claim compensation for damage.

Article 19

Codes of conduct

1. The Authority, the ministry responsible for the economy and the ministry responsible for electronic communications cooperate in:

- a) encouraging the drawing up of codes of conduct by providers of online intermediation services and by organizations and associations representing them, together with business users, including micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and their representative organizations, intended to contribute to the proper application of this Law, taking account of the specific features of the various sectors in which online intermediation services are provided, as well as of the specific characteristics of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
- b) encouraging providers of online search engines and organisations and associations representing them to draw up codes of conduct specifically intended to contribute to the proper application of Article 10 of this Law.
- c) encouraging providers of online intermediation services to adopt and implement sector-specific codes of conduct, where such codes exist and are widely used.

Article 20

Supervision and corrective measures

1. The responsible authorities under item 3, of Article 5, each within its own field of responsibility, supervise the application of the provisions of Chapters II, III and IV of this Law.

2. Where the responsible authority finds that a provider of online intermediation services or a provider of an online search engine has failed to comply with an obligation laid down in Chapters II, III or IV, it shall notify the provider of the service of the non-compliance found and, by reasoned decision, require corrective measures to be taken within a reasonable time limit.

3. If, upon expiry of the time limit under paragraph 2 of this Article, the non-compliance persists, the responsible authority shall take administrative measures as follows:

- a) where the infringement falls within law on protection of competition, the measures are taken by the Competition Authority in accordance with the legislation in force on the protection of competition;
- b) where the infringement affects consumer rights, the measures are taken in accordance with the legislation in force on consumer protection.

4. Administrative measures must be proportionate, effective and dissuasive. In imposing measures, the responsible authority takes into account the nature, gravity, duration and repetition of the non-compliance, the harm caused or likely to be caused to business users, the conduct of the provider during the proceedings, its cooperation and the measures taken to bring the non-compliance to an end and to remedy its consequences.

5. Measures or decisions of the responsible authority under this Article may be appealed before the competent administrative court.

CHAPTER VI

APPLICATION OF THE DIGITAL MARKETS ACT IN THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

Article 21

Authority responsible for cooperation with the European Commission

1. The Competition Authority is the authority responsible for cooperation with the European Commission for the application of the Digital Markets Act in the Republic of Albania.
2. Until the date of accession, cooperation under paragraph 1 of this Article includes, in particular:
 - a) participation in technical assistance and capacity-building programmes;
 - b) the exchange of information and best practices;
 - c) participation in the technical dialogue with the institutions of the European Union.
3. From the date of accession, the Authority cooperates and coordinates with the European Commission and with the other competent authorities of the Member States through the European Competition Network, in accordance with Articles 37 and 38 of the Digital Markets Act and in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

Article 22

Assistance in the exercise of the powers of the European Commission

1. From the date of accession, the Authority, at the request of the European Commission:
 - a) makes available all information necessary for the exercise of the Commission's powers, in accordance with Article 21 of the Digital Markets Act;
 - b) assists in the conduct of interviews and the taking of statements, in accordance with Article 22 of the Digital Markets Act;
 - c) provides assistance during inspections carried out by the European Commission in the territory of the Republic of Albania, in accordance with Article 23 of the Digital Markets Act, including securing the support of law enforcement bodies where necessary;
 - ç) supports the conduct of market investigations, in accordance with Article 16(5) of the Digital Markets Act;
 - d) makes officials available to the European Commission to assist in monitoring compliance with obligations and the implementation of measures, in accordance with Article 26(2) of the Digital Markets Act.
2. In carrying out the measures provided for in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Authority complies with the requirements of the legislation in force on the protection of competition.

Article 23

Investigations on the Authority's own initiative

1. From the date of accession, the Authority may conduct, on its own initiative and in accordance with the legislation in force, investigations into possible non-compliance with Articles 5, 6 and 7 of the Digital Markets Act in the territory of Albania, in accordance with Article 38(7) of the Digital Markets Act.
2. Before taking the first formal investigative measure under paragraph 1 of this Article, the Authority shall inform the European Commission in writing.
3. The findings of the investigation shall be transmitted to the European Commission. The Authority shall not take decisions finding infringements of the Digital Markets Act and shall not impose sanctions for its infringement.
4. Where the European Commission opens proceedings under the Digital Markets Act in respect of the same conduct under investigation, the Authority shall not open or, as the case may be, shall discontinue the investigation opened under this Article.
5. Where the Authority opens proceedings against a gatekeeper under the legislation on the protection of competition, it shall inform the European Commission in writing, in accordance with Article 38 of the Digital Markets Act.

Article 24

Information from third parties

1. Any natural or legal person may submit to the Authority information on practices or behaviour of gatekeepers falling within the scope of the Digital Markets Act, in accordance with Article 27 thereof.
2. Until the date of accession, the information received under paragraph 1 of this Article is used for the purposes of monitoring digital markets, building institutional capacity and cooperating with the European Commission.
3. From the date of accession, the Authority examines the information received and, as appropriate, takes the measures provided for in this Law or transmits it to the European Commission.
4. The Authority establishes and administers a dedicated communication channel for receiving information under this Article and informs the public of its functioning.

Article 25

Information on concentrations

1. When reviewing concentrations under the legislation on the protection of competition in which a gatekeeper or an undertaking providing core platform services in Albania participates, the Authority takes into account the information notified to the European Commission under Article 14 of the Digital Markets Act.
2. From the date of accession, the information received from the European Commission under Article 14 of the Digital Markets Act is used by the Authority for the exercise of its powers in the field of merger control, in accordance with the legislation on the protection of competition.

CHAPTER VII

PREPARATORY MEASURES

Article 26

Operational Readiness Plan

1. The Authority shall adopt, within 6 months from the entry into force of this Law, the Operational Readiness Plan for the application of Regulation (EU) 2022/1925.
2. The Authority draws up the Plan after consulting the other public authorities which, within their competences, have the expertise and information necessary for the application of the Digital Markets Act and which may contribute in accordance with this Law. A measure requiring action by another body is included in the Plan only with its written consent and within the competences and resources it administers.
3. The Plan sets out, for each measure, the expected result, the time limit, the responsible structure within the Authority, the resources and the indicator of achievement up to the date of accession to the European Union, in accordance with the requirements of the Digital Markets Act.
4. The Plan prepared by the Authority is updated when operational needs or the stage of the European integration process change.
5. For the implementation of the Operational Readiness Plan, the Authority submits to the Assembly and/or the responsible institutions its requests for the provision/approval of the necessary resources.

Article 27

Training and development of institutional capacity

1. The Authority, according to the needs identified in the Operational Readiness Plan, organizes training and the professional development of its staff.
2. Staff of other public bodies may take part in training activities. The Authority may use the European Union assistance instruments, the support of international organizations and cooperation with counterpart authorities.
3. Other public bodies may provide the Authority with experts or technical support, at its request and within their competences and resources. This provision does not create new functions for them.

CHAPTER VIII

COMMON, TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 28

Protection of personal data

1. The processing of personal data in the application of this Law is carried out in accordance with the legislation in force on the protection of personal data.
2. The Authority and the Commissioner for the Right to Information and Protection of Personal Data cooperate, within their competences, on personal data protection matters arising from the application of this Law.

Article 29

Preservation of commercial confidentiality

1. Information collected pursuant to this law is used only for the purposes of this Law, in accordance with the relevant legal basis.
2. From the date of accession, information exchanged under Article 38 of the Regulation, the Digital Markets Act, is used only for coordinating the enforcement of that Act and of the competition rules referred to in Article 1(6) thereof. Information received under Article 14 [of the Digital Markets Act] is used only for the purposes permitted by paragraph 5 of that Article.
3. The members of the governing bodies and the staff of the Authority and of other public bodies, as well as any other person who obtains knowledge of confidential information, professional secrets or trade secrets in the application of this Law, are bound to preserve them, including after the end of their function or employment relationship. Decisions and reports are published in a non-confidential version.

Article 30

Financial effects

The financial effects arising from the application of this Law are borne by the approved budget of the Authority and of the other responsible institutions. Assistance programmes of the European Union or of international organizations are used in accordance with the legislation on financial management and do not affect the independence of the Authority.

Article 31

Transitional provisions

1. The provisions of Chapters II, III and IV of this Law apply 6 months after the entry into force of this Law.
2. From the date of accession, Chapters II to V of this Law are repealed upon the direct application of European Union law.

Article 32

Entry into force

This Law enters into force 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette.